सूचना उपलब्ध न होने के कारण भारत में इस्पात की उत्पादन लागत की तुलना अन्य देशों के इस्पात की उत्पादन लागत से करना संभव नहीं है।

(घ) और (ङ) इस समय देश से लोहे तथा इस्पात के निर्यात पर निर्यात शुल्क प्रभार्य नहीं है। निर्यात में वृद्धि करने के संबंध में किये जाने वाले उपायों के संबंध में भारतीय इस्पात निर्यातकों द्वारा दिये गये प्रस्तावों पर समय-समय पर विचार किया जाता है और यदि आवश्यकता होती है, तो उन पर [संबंधित मंत्रालयों/विभागों/एजेन्सियों से विमर्श किया जाता है।

**Strike by the workers against privatisation of IISCO**

2226. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether workers of all the public sector steeel plants in the country struck work recently as a protest against Government's decision to privatise IISCO in Burnpur;

(b) if so, what is the total production loss suffered by the steel plants (plant-wise) as a result thereof;

(c) what are the circumstances leading to the privatising of IISCO;

(d) the number of employees that would be affected as a consequence thereof; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to safeguard their interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As a mark of protest inter-alia against the proposal on private participation in IISCO, the Joint Convention of representatives of AIPUC, BMS, CITU, HMS and INTUC called for a day's strike on 7-9-93. As a result of strike loss of saleable steel production amounted to 480 tonnes in Rourkela steel Plant, 1649 tonnes in Bokaro Steel Plant and 1120 tonnes in Burnpur Steel Works. In Bhilai Steel Plant, Durgapur Steel Plant and Visakhapatnam Steel Plant there was, however, no loss of production.

Government propose to enlist private participation in IISCO mainly because neither Government nor SAIL are in a position to find financial resources of the order required to undertake the modernisation of the Burnpur Steel Works.

(d) and (e) Private participation in IISCO will be enlisted ensuring that it will have no adverse impact on the employees of IISCO. While seeking to enlist private participation in IISCO, Government have committed themselves to protect the interests of the employees. There will be no retrenchment. The management will be free to rationalise the manpower and retrain and redeploy them but based on the goodwill of the workforce. The terms and conditions of the continued employment of the employees will not be inferior to those they are currently entitled to.

**Mini Steel plants in Bihar**

2227. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) how many mini steel plants (Electric arc furnaces) are in Bihar with details thereof and how many of them are operational;